

MSc in Speech and Language Therapy
For students entering in 2010/1

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Life Sciences Faculty
Programme length:	2 years
Date of specification:	08/Feb/2013
Programme Director:	Prof Susan Edwards
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Speech and Language Therapy
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

This two-year programme provides a Master's degree with a certificate to practise as a speech and language therapist. Students study 1) core subjects of linguistics, medicine and psychology and how these subjects contribute to an understanding of normal and non-normal speech and language and 2) basic and specialised topics of language pathology. In addition, students develop therapeutic skills through tutorials, workshops and supervised clinical practice. It is expected that the theoretical knowledge and clinical competence achieved will enable graduates to engage in evidence based practice and clinical research, satisfy the requirements of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and provide eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council.

Transferable skills

Programme content

The following profile contains the list of modules. The programme runs over two years, with students obtaining 180 credits in each year.

Year one

Students must obtain 180 credits. All modules in year one are compulsory.

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LSMPH1	Foundation Phonetics & Phonology	10	7
PLMCLA	Child Language Acquisition	10	7
PLMFS	Foundation of Syntax	10	7
PLMLP	Language Processing	10	7
PLMM1	Medicine 1	20	7
PLMM2	Medicine 2	20	7
PLMCPH	Clinical Phonetics	10	7
PLMCI1	Communication Impairment 1	20	7
PLMCP1	Clinical Practice 1	30	7
PLMLA	Applications of Linguistics	10	7
PY2DPM	Developmental Psychology	10	7
PY2SPM	Social Psychology	10	7
PY2CLM	Clinical Psychology	10	7

Year 2

Students will take six compulsory modules and one optional module (180 credits):

Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
PLMCI2	Communication Impairment 2	20	7
PLMCI3	Communication Impairment 3	20	7
PLMCI4	Communication Impairment 4	10	7
PLMPD	Advanced Professional Development	20	7
PLMRD	Research and Dissertation	40	7
PLMCP2	Clinical Practice 2	60	7

Optional modules:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
PLMLI	Specific Language Impairment	10	7
PLMLAA	Linguistic Aspects of Aphasia	10	7
PLMEL	Electrophysiology of Language	10	7
PLMDS	Dysphagia	10	7

Part-time or modular arrangements

N/A

Progression requirements

To progress from year one to year two, students must gain an average mark of 50 in year one.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Modules are taught by lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops. The dissertation module is supported by individual supervision and there is individual supervision in clinical placements. This supervision is provided by qualified speech and language therapists and provides students with an interactive learning experience. Clinical placements are provided both on and off campus. Students start clinical practice observing clinical sessions within the School's speech and language therapy clinic. These are supported by tutorials. During the second year, students take increasing amount of responsibility for their own caseloads.

Students on this degree programme complete over 450 hours of clinical work as part of the requirement of the professional and regulatory bodies (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Health Professions Council).

Modules are assessed by a combination of course-work and formal examination. Assessment of PLMCP2 includes two practical clinical examinations. Students need to pass both of the clinical exams and gain 50% or more in this module in order to be recommended to the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and to be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council for a certificate to practise.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

Assessment and Classification

The title for this degree is protected by the Health Professions Council. Candidates awarded the degree of Master may apply to register with the Health Professions Council as a Speech and Language Therapist. Student must gain a mark of at least 50% in modules PLMC12, PLMC13, PLMC14 (Communication Impairment 2,3,4), PLMCP2 (Clinical Practice 2) and PLMPD (Advanced Professional Development). Students who fail these modules may re-submit work and/or be re-examined and on successful completion pass the degree. Marks awarded on the re-take will be restricted to 50%. Students who re-take and fail at re-take in one or more of PLMC12, PLCC13, PLMC14, PLMCP2 and PLMPD may be eligible for a degree in Language Sciences.

For MSc

To be awarded the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 in year two and a weighted average mark of 50 or more overall, including a mark of 50 or more for PLMRD. Further, they must have no mark below 40 in modules PLMCI2 and PLMCI3, and a mark no less than 50 in module PLMCP2. Further, students must have completed a total of 150 clinical sessions in years one and two combined. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for PLMRD and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the PLMRD and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit. Students who gain a mark of 70 or more in PLMCP2 will be eligible for a Clinical Distinction.

Weighting for classification purposes is 40% for year one and 60% for year two.

Admission requirements

Applicants need to have an upper second class or first class degree in a related subject such as linguistics, psychology, medical sciences or education studies. In addition, it is expected that applicants will have knowledge of speech and language therapy, experience of health care or education provision for adults or children or other appropriately related work experience. Applicants will normally be interviewed before being offered a place. Students will normally be expected to have a year's work experience before being admitted to this programme.

For overseas applicants for whom English is not the first language, a British Council IELTS score of 7.5 or above is required (with not less than 7.0 in any of the four individual elements).

Admissions Tutor:

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Career prospects

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Programme Outcomes

The aims of this programme are that students will have an appreciation of the principles of the scientific study of normal and abnormal language; a knowledge of the nature and development of language and knowledge of a range of speech and language disorders; an understanding of the role and significance of language in the individual and society; practical skills in the analysis of normal and abnormal language; knowledge of a range of pathologies associated with abnormal speech and language; clinical skills for dealing with a range of clients and a multiplicity of communication disorders and associated pathologies. The professional skills acquired will equip them to practise as speech and language therapists.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Assessment

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Assessment

C. Practical skills - able to:

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Assessment

D. Transferable skills - able to:

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Assessment

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.